Production of Silk

47. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the scheme formulated by the Government to boost the production of all the four types of silk;

(b) whether the production of eri, muga and tasar silk has been declined; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of silk of all types particularly in non traditional States like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a number of schemes/projects/ programmes for promoting development of all the four types of silk. These include schemes for extension of R&D, training, infrastructural & extension support to the sector through network of CSB's units & implementation of certain developmental/incentive/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericultural practices for production of quality silk. Besides, the Central Silk Boards has also taken up sericulture projects like World Bank assisted National Sericulture Project (covering 17 States), Action Plan for seven States of North Eastern region etc. in association/ collaboration with the States.

(b) while the production of eri and muga silk has been steady, there has been a decline in the production of tasar.

(c) In order to check decline in production of tasar and to promote development of other non-mulberry varieties like eri and muga, the CSB has initiated an International Non-mulberry R&D Programme for taking up collaborative research projects on non-mulberry by inviting scientists from abroad. Besides organising supply of basic seed, CSB has also taken up schemes for augmentation of tasar, muga & eri food plants.

Bihar, Madhya Pradesh & Orissa are among the 12 non-traditional mulberry States covered under the World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project for Implementation of pilot sericulture projects in select districts of these States. These States were also covered under the Inter-State Tasar Project earlier implemented by the CSB. Besides assistance has been provided for implementation of a project for development of tasar cocoons in Madhya Pradesh and for Intensive Sericulture Development Project in Orissa. In addition, these States can avail of assistance under the on-going approved schemes of the CSB.

Divestment of Unlisted Shares by Foreign Investors

*48 SHRI S. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has revised the valuation rules for divestment of unlisted or thinly-traded shares by foreign investors;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the benefits NRIs are likely to get on account of revised valuation rules?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the basis of the recommendations made by an informal expert group set up by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) consisting of representatives from Securities & Exchange Board of India, All India Financial Institutions, Professional accountants etc., RBI have announced revised valuation guidelines on 18th September 1996 for disinvestment of unlisted/thinly traded shares by foreign investors.

(c) Besides being more rational and in line with the current capital market trends, the revised guidelines introduce transparency and clarity in the valuation methodology thereby improving the investment environment for Non-resident Indian and other foreign investors.

Fifth Pay Commission

*49 SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in submitting the report by the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government employees have started agitation for earlier finalisation of the report;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) the time by which the Commission is expected to submit its report

(f) the date from which the report is likely to become effective;

(g) whether in view of the inordinate delay in submitting the report, the Pay Commission proposes to submit another interim report regarding pay structures of the employees to the Government;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (i). The Fifth Pay Commission was constituted in April 1994. Given the time taken by